(b) if so, whether Government has made any assessment of the loss to the farmers have already to suffer for the decline in the fertility of their lands;

(c) whether any measure to compensate the loss of the farmers and to check further degradation of the land has been contemplated by the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Ash from Farakka Super Thermal Power Project is not increasingly creating a new layer on the surface of corn fields spread over a vast area adjacent to the plant. However, during the recent floods in October, 1991 which occurred in the area, some ash which was deposited earlier in the Kangoli river bed escaped into the neighbouring fields due to the breaches in the banks of this river.

(b) to (d). No assessment has been possible so far because of the standing crops in the area. Block Development Officer of the area is seized of the matter.

Benefit of Electronic Media in Remote Areas

3878. SHRI SUBASH CHANDRA NAYAK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide the benefit of electronic media in remote areas inhabited by Adivasis and other weaker sections of society in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMAITON AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. While the objective of All India Radio and Doordarshan is to provide radio and TV coverage respectively to the entire population of the country in a phased manner, due priority is given to extend such coverage to hilly and remote areas, mostly inhabited by Adivasis and other weaker sections. On completion of the ongoing schemes under implementation, sizeable areas of tribal districts are expected to be covered.

Proposal to Free Convicts Awarded Life Term

3879. SHRI SURESHANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the occasion of Republic Day Government propose to free convicts who have been awarded life term and are in jails for 15 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c). 'Prisons' being a state subject, the State Governments are competent to take a view in this regard. Under the Constitution the Governor of a State has the power to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person, convicted of any offence, against any law relating to a matter to which the executive power of the State extends.